

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SR-02 ORM-01

VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

OMB-01 SCS-03 EB-07 TRSE-00 ABF-01 DPW-01 /118 W

----- 108700

O 301412Z APR 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2484

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

GOV/GUAM IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS/SREF, ICEM

SUBJ: ECEM - INDOCHINA REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

REF: A. STATE 099862; B. STATE 099387

1. CARLIN AND WIESNER MET WITH ECEM DIRECTOR THOMAS AND SENIOR MEMBERS ICEM STAFF APRIL 30 TO DISCUSS ICEM ROLE IN RESETTLING REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. REFUGEE GROUPS FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM WERE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO KHMER REFUGEES, THOMAS REFERRED TO ECEM TEAM IN THAILAND AND SAID THAT IF NECESSARY THEY COULD OPERATE IN BOTH BANGKOK AND AT UTAPAO. THOMAS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AMEMBASSY BANGKOK WAS TAKING STEPS TO SORT OUT REFUGEES, HAVE THEM MEDICALLY EXAMINED AND ASSIGNING THEM TO VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME VOLUNTARY AGENCIES SUCH AS THE AMERICAN FUND FOR CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES AND TOLSTOY FOUNDATION HAVE DIFFI-

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CULTY IN HANDLING LARGE FAMILIES. ECEM, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS

THAT COUPLES OR UNATTACHED INDIVIDUALS BE ASSIGNED TO THESE AGEN-
CIES LEAVING LARGER REFUGEE FAMILY UNITS TO OTHER VOLAGS. MIS-
SION CONCURS AND RECOMMENDS THAT AMEMBASSY BANGKOK COORDINATE WITH
LOCAL ICEM TEAM ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF CASES TO VOLAGS.

3. WASHINGTON DECISION NEEDED URGENTLY AS TO WHETHER THESE MOVE-
MENTS WILL BE ON LOAN OR GRANT BASIS. TASK FORCE WILL RECALL THAT
VOLAGS UNANIMOUSLY FAVOR GRANTS. ECEM IS ENDEAVORING ARRANGE
FIRST CHARTER FLIGHT TO PENDLETON MAY 3 AND SECOND FLIGHT MAY 4
(REFTEL B REFERS).

4. ECEM UNDERSTANDS FROM VOLAGS THAT IF ECEM REPRESENTATIVES IN
THAILAND CAN PROVIDE ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH INDIVIDUAL
FAMILY INCLUDING OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION, THESE REFUGEES MIGHT
BE MOVED DIRECT TO FINAL DESTINATIONS RATHER THAN THROUGH STAGING
AREA. WE SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT CHECK THIS OUT WITH VOLAGS AND
INFORM BANGKOK AND GENEVA ACCORDINGLY. THIS REGARD ICEM REPORTS
THAT COMMERCIAL AIRLINE SPACE AVAILABLE FROM BANGKOK TO HONG KONG
AND THAT ICEM CAN OBTAIN SPECIAL 50 PERCENT REFUGEE RATE FROM HONG
KONG TO USA.

5. WE EXPLAINED LIMITS OF US RESPONSIBILITY POINTING OUT THAT
USG DOES NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THOSE KHMERS WHO
CAME ACROSS BORDER ON OWN STEAM OR BY MEANS OTHER THAN US AIRLIFT.
IT WAS AGREED, SUBJECT TO WASHINGTON CONFIRMATION, THAT USG WOULD
PAY ICEM FOR TRANSPORT TO FRANCE AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THOSE IN
REFUGEE CATEGORY WHO HAD BEEN EVACUATED BY THE US. IF THE RTG
REQUESTS ICEM HELP IN MOVING OTHER THAN US EVACUEES, RTG WOULD BE
EXPECTED TO MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION AND ANY US CONTRIBUTION WOULD
PROBABLY REPRESENT NO MORE THAN AMOUNT WE MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO
OTHER ICEM SPONSORED REFUGEE MOVEMENTS ELSEWHERE IN WORLD.

6. RESPECT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WE STRESSED USG'S INTEREST IN
HAVING ICEM TAKE ALL POSSIBLE MEASURES TO DEVELOP PERMANENT RE-
SETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAXIMUM NUMBER IN COUNTRIES OTHER
THAN USA. WE INFORMED ICEM OF OUR SIMILAR REQUEST TO UNHCR, AND
THAT US AMBASSADORS AROUND WORLD WERE INSTRUCTED TO MAKE APPROACHES
THIS REGARD BILATERALLY. THOMAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO BE RESPONSIVE
BUT EXPLAINED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON LACK OF SUB-
STANTIAL OBJECTIONS BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
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TO ICEM'S INVOLVEMENT THIS EFFORT. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ICEM
HAS SENT FORMAL NOTIFICATION TO EXECCOMM MEMBERS AND IS AWAITING
REPLIES. THOMAS WILL COORDINATE WITH UNHCR CONNECTION ANY AP-
PROACHES TO GOVERNMENTS. THOMAS MENTIONED INTER ALIA POSSIBILITY
OF APPROACHING LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO ASCERTAIN THEIR WILL-
INGNESS TO ACCEPT THOSE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES MEETING CRITERIA OF
ICEM'S SELECTIVE MIGRATION PROGRAM. MOREOVER, ICEM AGREED TO
PURSUE THOS GOVERNMENTS WHICH REACT POSITIVELY TO USG'S BILATERAL

APPROACHES. MISSION KEEPING ICEM AND UNHCR AWARE OF REACTIONS
TO THESE APPROACHES.

7. WE INFORMED ICEM OF CANADA'S INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT
1800 VIETNAMESE (PLUS FAMILY MEMBERS) WHO HAVE RECEIVED CANADIAN
VISA LETTERS AND URGED ICEM TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF FACILITATING
THE RESETTLEMENT OF THIS GROUP TO CANADA. ICEM READILY AGREED
AND REQUESTS THAT ICEM GUAM TEAM BE GIVEN LIST OF THESE CASES.
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS GROUP COULD INVOLVE UP TO 10,000 PERSONS.
SUGGEST THAT NAMES THESE CASES BE MADE KNOWN TO ICEM GUAM ASAP.

8. THOMAS STATED WILLINGNESS TO GEAR UP ICEM OPERATION GUAM IN
ORDER ASSIST AS POSSIBLE IN RESETTLEMENT OF PERSONS DESTINED TO
COUNTRIES OTHER THAN USA, AND TO ASSIST AS WELL WITH SORTING OF RE-
FUGEE CATEGORIES.

9. THOMAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO COME TO WASHINGTON IF AND
WHEN HIS VISIT MIGHT BE USEFUL.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA03046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750151-0933
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975044/aaaaadox.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 099862, 75 STATE 099387
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEM - INDOCHINA REFUGEE ASSISTANCE
TAGS: SREF, AEMR, ICEM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006